



TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Executive Director's Report

JANUARY 2015

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TJJD Volunteers Making a Difference

The Texas Juvenile Justice Department believes that, through volunteers, the community has the ability to enhance lives of youth by providing meaningful activities and resources that promote pro-social, educational, emotional and spiritual growth, and healthy family relationships. The TJJD Volunteer Services Department produced the following results during fiscal years 2013 and 2014. It's important to note the decline in overall community engagement is attributed to facility closures across the agency and less community resource councils as a result.

- 1,326 community volunteers enrolled in the program at the end of FY 2014 (1,485 / FY 2013). Demographics of the volunteer population at the end of FY14 consist of:
 - GENDER: 51% Female; 49% Male
 - ETHNICITY: 67% Caucasian; 17% Hispanic; 14% African-American
 - MARITAL STATUS: 69% Married
 - TENURE: Average 3.9 years
- 66,499 hours of service contributed by volunteers during FY14 (73,562 / FY13), valued at \$1,472,280 based upon the value of the volunteer hour, as determined by the Independent Sector. (This value is based upon the average hourly earnings of all productions and nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, plus 12% to estimate for fringe benefits.)

VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS IN FY 2014 & 2013

	FY14	FY13
Chaplaincy & religious services	41,169	40,585
Internships	8,883	11,686
Mentoring	6,462	7,909
Holiday and birthday activities	3,399	3,100
Community Resource Council activities	3,365	4,339
Support, leisure, and skills group activities	1,496	2,147
Tutoring and other educational services	425	558
Family involvement, parenting dev, surrogate activities	265	1,231
Clerical assistance	119	235
TOTAL HOURS (including misc. activities)	66,499	73,562

- \$54,021 in cash donations and fundraising revenue generated by the local community resource councils affiliated with TJJD in FY14 (\$67,406 / FY13).
- \$1,671,371 cash and in-kind contributions benefitting TJJD youth in FY14 (including the value of volunteer hours) (\$1,827,570 / FY13).
- 35,898 community service hours performed by TJJD youth on parole, in halfway houses, and institutions in FY14 (38,131 / FY13).
- 3,145 community citizens educated through facility tours, volunteer training sessions, and public awareness and prevention speaking engagements in FY14 (4,327 / FY13). ■

Mentoring Impact Analysis

Each year, the TJJD Research Department runs a complete statistical analysis on the impact mentors make in the lives of our youth. The following research analysis confirms mentoring really does make a difference; the improvements are increased when mentoring matches are sustained for at least six months, and faith-based mentoring is the most successful type of mentoring. The likelihood of rearrest within one year is significantly decreased for youth who are mentored.

TJJD had 245 volunteer mentors enrolled in our programs at the end of FY 2014, and they spent 6,462 hours with our youth during FY 2014 and 7,909 hours in FY 2013. Mentors are expected to meet with their mentee 4-8 hours every month for at least 6 months (180 days) when possible.

MENTORING SERVICES PROVIDED

- Since 1997, the volunteer services program coordinators have made 3,915 matches involving 3,315 unique youth. In FY 2014, mentoring services were initiated for 225 youth, and 251 youth in FY13.
- With these new matches and the mentoring relationships that had been sustained from the previous years, a total of 316 youth received mentoring services during FY 2014.
- Of the 225 youth matches that were initiated during FY 2014, 127 were categorized as “basic mentoring”, 94 as “faith-based mentoring”, and 4 as “sponsorship mentoring.”
- 9.8% of the youth in a TJJD institution – or 203 individuals – were mentored during FY 2014.
- 9.3% of the youth in a TJJD halfway house – or 55 individuals – were mentored during FY 2014.
- 5.4% of the youth on TJJD parole – or 69 individuals – were mentored during FY 2014.
- 19% of the GitRedy Youth on parole in Houston – or 38 individuals – were mentored during FY 2014. In FY 2013, 22% of the GitRedy Youth – or 43 individuals - were mentored. Since the start of the GitRedy program, a total of 196 youth have been mentored.

AVERAGE LENGTH OF MATCH

Of the 215 mentor matches that ended in FY 2014, 46.5% were sustained for at least 180 days (compared to 43% of matches that ended in FY 2013). The average duration of these 215 matches that ended was 7.0 months. ■

Travis County Juvenile Probation Department Receives Accreditation from the American Psychological Association

BY DR. ERIN FOLEY

Director Health Services, Travis County Juvenile Probation Department

In the fall of 2011, Travis County Juvenile Probation Department (TCJPD) was awarded a multi-year grant from the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health to support the development of a doctoral level psychology internship program designed to meet the training and accreditation standards of the American Psychological Association (APA). TCJPD recognized the development of a psychology internship program as an opportunity to further support the provision of effective mental health services at the department while simultaneously training future psychologists in the field of juvenile justice. At the time the award was granted, a review of available psychology internship sites from across the country revealed a dearth of training opportunities for those interested in pursuing a career in juvenile justice; this same review revealed no APA-accredited programs within the state of Texas devoted solely to working with youth and families in a juvenile justice setting.

Between September 2011 and February 2014, TCJPD walked through the rigorous steps of the APA accreditation process. In August of 2014, the department received official notification that it was granted accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of the APA, with an effective date of February 11, 2014. The internship program is now listed among the accredited programs of professional psychology and is one of few internship programs from around the country dedicated specifically to training psychologists in a juvenile justice setting.

TCJPD's psychology internship program, which is housed in the department's Health Services Division, prepares interns to enter the field of psychology with the skills and training necessary to provide culturally competent, empirically supported, and clinically effective psychological services to juveniles and families. Psychology interns strengthen their clinical skills while functioning as members of an interdisciplinary team that includes representatives from psychology, psychiatry, nursing, and probation. Throughout the training year, psychology interns work alongside the department's licensed psychologists to conduct trauma-informed mental health assessments and comprehensive psychological evaluations, to provide individual and family therapy, and to facilitate group-based interventions with juveniles who are presenting with mental health or dual diagnosis needs.

The psychology internship program emphasizes the application of current scientific knowledge to clinical practice, and interns are expected to apply evidence-based practices to their clinical work with youth and families. This emphasis on the use of applicable scientific knowledge is reflected throughout all of the clinical work conducted by the members of the department's Health Services Division, and interns have the opportunity to gain exposure to multiple evidence-based practices and interventions throughout their training year. The evidence-based interventions and approaches utilized by the members of the Health Services Division are designed to effectively address significant clinical issues such as trauma, depression, anxiety, and substance use.

Having an APA-accredited internship program at TCJPD supports the overall mission of the department, which is to provide for public safety while effectively addressing the needs of juvenile offenders, families, and victims of crime. Psychology interns have the opportunity to work with juveniles who are experiencing complex mental health needs and to be actively involved in the development of effective mental health programs for youth and families.

Since its inception, the internship program has expanded from two to four interns per year and has welcomed psychologists-in-training from around the country. The psychology interns have come to the department from within the state of Texas as well as from states such as Arizona, California, Florida, New York, and Pennsylvania. To date, each of the interns who have completed the TCJPD psychology internship program have elected to remain in Texas to pursue their postdoctoral training and licensure. ■

Willoughby House's First Epiphany

On Dec. 6, 2014, the former Corsicana Epiphany team led a one day retreat and reunion for 13 youth from Willoughby House. Team members came from Jacksonville, Krum, McKinney, Corsicana, Weatherford and other cities.

Highlights included group games, a Christmas party (each youth received a gift) and the opportunity for each youth to write their story on index cards and present it to a mentor. The youth heard several talks, which focused on building up youth's self-esteem, understanding the challenges upon release and redefining attainable goals upon release.

Sheri Short, team Lay Director, said, "The volunteers loved spending the day with these incredible young men. Since the Corsicana facility closed, we have not had the opportunity to serve the youth in this way. We hope we are able to do this type of retreat every six months."

"This was such a successful event that Willoughby plans to continue the retreats," said Felicia Reynolds, Assistant Superintendent. "The youth came back very excited and shared some of the things that they learned during that day. We're grateful that Ms. Short was willing to share this new experience with our youth." ■





Bexar County JPD Receives Ebola Training

The Bexar County Juvenile Probation Department, working in concert with our medical provider, University Health System, has developed a protocol for screening children entering the Detention Center for Ebola virus and for responding if a resident is suspected of having the virus.

The protocol includes asking additional questions of incoming residents, taking the temperature of every incoming resident, and providing for an immediate medical response if indicators are met. Orientation staff, who are likely to come into contact with any infected child, were recently trained by UHS Nurse Mary Hathaway in the donning and doffing of the protective equipment. ■

Houston Parole Youth See "Selma"

The Houston District Office, with the support of HARCTY (Houston Area Resource Council for Texas Youth) offered youth on parole a movie day honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by taking interested youth to see the movie "Selma".

Following the movie, a group discussion was conducted as youth were quizzed on their knowledge of the of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the events leading up to its signing. Given hints such as LBJ, they collectively identified Lyndon Baines Johnson. One youth had an "ah hah" moment and said, "What! LBJ is a hospital in my neighborhood. You mean LBJ was a President too?" ■





Staff and Youth Welcome Volunteers for Christmas

Volunteer groups gathered throughout December to celebrate with Evins staff and youth the joy and meaning of Christmas. Volunteer groups brought a wide variety of food and music and provided each youth a wrapped Christmas gift.

Some volunteers brought home-cooked food while others prefer pizza and other tasty fast food. A common food staple at Evins is tamales, fajita tacos, rice and beans and other traditional Mexican Christmas dishes.

“Growing up at home my mother made sure that we had the tamales ready for Christmas,” said Fidel Garcia, Community Relations Coordinator at Evins. “My mom, mi abuelita (grandma) and other family members were involved in preparing the dough, cooking the meat and adding the right ingredients. For us children that meant that Christmas was right around the corner and we would just wait and wait for those tamales to be cooked so that we could then eat and open our gifts.”

Each volunteer group is assigned to a dorm and given a list of gift items that they can buy for each youth. The list includes gifts such as socks, shirts, board games and other items. The items are allowed to be wrapped up but must be opened by the youth in the presence of a JCO. Some groups prefer to put five to fifteen dollars in each youth’s account so that they can draw from for canteen items or extra phone minutes to call home.

This year at Evins volunteers and staff combined forces to collect toys and food for the Boys & Girls Club of Alamo and for youth and their families on parole. Youth on parole were presented with more than 60 gifts for their brothers and sisters while a food gift basket was presented to each family.

This year’s sponsors were: First Baptist Church of Edinburg, Catholic Dioceses of Brownsville, Christian Fellowship Church of McAllen, Baptist Temple McAllen Band of Brothers Ministries, and Our Lady of Guadalupe Church of Mission, and the Salvation Army of Dallas. ■



Gainesville Youth Help Create Nativity Scene

Youth from the Gainesville State School traveled to First Presbyterian Church in December where they helped create the nativity scene. They got to try out their carpentry skills as they hammered, connected, and bolted the frame. They even got to use a posthole digger. The nativity scene is a live one and is a tradition at First Presbyterian. Our youth enjoyed the opportunity to contribute and participate in this event. ■



PBL at Evins

Students in Mrs. Mata's APEX (online Classes) at Evins are pictured working on a Piñata as part of a Project Base Learning (PBL) lesson. The students in Spanish class were learning about the different traditions of Spanish-speaking communities and, since the Christmas season was right around the corner, the youth learned that Piñatas are also used during the Christmas Posadas. The project was a great way for the Art students also on APEX to demonstrate their creativity skill as well. ■

Ron Jackson Youth Learn About Birds of Prey

Master Falconer and Veterinary Technician John Karger, founder of Last Chance Forever, The Birds of Prey Conservancy, visited Ron Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Complex on Jan. 8, 2015 with his assortment of live raptors.

Presented were the Bay Wing Hawk, found in the South West deserts of Texas, and a Red Tail Hawk found in Canada and Mexico. Other birds included the Prairie Falcon, Black Vultures, Big Barn Owls, and finally the small Red Face Screeching Owl found in Pine Trees of East Texas. Each of these beautiful feathered animals was on display and the youth and staff of the Ron Jackson sat in awe and as the rare creatures squawked and flew around the gym to their Bird Master's call.

Ron Jackson youth learned the importance of conservancy of wild life through Karger's presentation.

"These birds have some type of soul," Karger said. "There is a light in their eyes, the same light that is found in any human being, just on a smaller scale."

The youths learned that birds of prey are hunters. When they hunt, their kill not only provides food and supplies for themselves and other animals, but their diet of bugs, mice and snakes helps maintain the natural balance in wild life and nature.

The highlight of the presentation was the introduction of our noble national symbol – the Bald Eagle. The youth of Ron Jackson learned that the seven-pound Eagle lives for approximately 50 years on a diet of mostly fish and mates for life.

Those interested can visit the Last Chance Forever website at www.lastchanceforever.org. ■



2014 Review of Family Support Services

Research has shown that family involvement has a positive correlation with successful community re-entry, improvement in behavior, and academic performance among youth. The agency has moved from family-informed care to family-involved care, and sees the youth's family as an asset in his or her rehabilitation and successful community re-entry. Family Liaisons, employed at each of the secure facilities, coach, educate, support, and encourage family members to participate in and help administer the rehabilitation plan for their youth. Opportunities for family participation come during quarterly Family Day events, family-focused seminars and forums, contact and web-based visitation, and monthly multi-disciplinary team meetings. ■

Family Support Activity	TOTALS	By Facility						HWH & Parole
		EVN	GNS	GID	MART	MRTC	RJ	
Family Days Hosted	23	5	3	1	4	3	3	3
Families Participating in Family Day Events	391	116	37	48	97	14	62	17
Number of Family Members Recorded at Visitation	16,434	4,370	2,621	3,031	3,287	281	1,022	1,822
Webcam Virtual Visits	157	41	30	14	19	14	39	0
Youth Participating in Virtual Visits	104	23	23	7	8	9	34	0
Family Reunification Sessions (PL&L)	50	11	6	14	7	0	4	8
Family Reunification Sessions (ECK)	40	0	10	0	1	0	3	26
Family Satisfaction Survey Responses	159	15	43	23	19	10	24	25
Youth Participating in PAPA Classes	55	15	14	4	9	0	4	9
Family Orientation Participants	426	98	109	9	84	44	82	0
CRCG Referrals	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
Participants at Parent Seminars	38	0	23	0	0	0	3	12

Family Day Events

All facilities host quarterly, campus-wide Family Day events during which family-focused activities and seminars are planned. Switching Family Day events from a monthly to a quarterly basis enables our Family Liaisons to allocate more time facilitating other family engagement activities. ■

Employees Receiving Tenure Awards

TJJD would like to recognize the following employees who have received a tenure award since December 2014. On behalf of the agency, we extend our sincerest gratitude and appreciation for their dedication and service to the State of Texas.

January 2015

FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

NAME	LOCATION/CENTRAL OFFICE DIVISION
Amanda M. McNew	McLennan RTC
Jose L. Sandoval	Evins
Le E. Searcy Jr.	Gainesville
Marketa R. Johnson	Gainesville
Renee R. Waits	Ron Jackson
Teresa A. Ford	Gainesville

TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Angela D. Bell	McLennan RTC
Antarius J. Green	McLennan CSJCF
Bobby J. Fitzpatrick	McLennan CSJCF
Gabriel Donez	Tamayo HWH
Gregory L. Washington	McLennan CSJCF
Karen E. Williams	Giddings
NaQuista D. Arps	McLennan CSJCF
Saul E. Salas	Austin (Chief of Staff)

FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Ann J. MacEwan	Austin (Information Technology)
Bernard N. Kouame	McLennan CSJCF
Carmen L. Newberry	McFadden Ranch
Dale M. Rinner	Gainesville
Dana K. Grady	Brownwood HWH
Eric L. Smith	Dallas District Office
Ismael Santos	Evins
Marie J. Welsch	Austin (Probation & Community Services)
Shaun R. Shults	Ron Jackson
Valerie M. Jones	Austin (Medical)

TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Dwayne Ewing	McLennan CSJCF
Federico Lambert III	Austin (Information Technology)
Joni E. Gross	McLennan CSJCF
Kelvin Powers	McLennan RTC
Kevin M. Birdwell	Schaeffer HWH
Ronald W. Reininger	Austin (Finance)
Tara Y. Betts	McLennan RTC
Troy L. Lowery	Ron Jackson

TWENTY FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Ava J. Hicks	Ron Jackson
Dennis A. Westerlin	Gainesville
Valerie Calhoun	McLennan RTC